

**SPECIAL MEETING  
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN  
(PUBLIC PARTICIPATION)**

**October 2, 2007**

**7:00 PM  
Aldermanic Chambers  
City Hall (3rd Floor)**

Mayor Guinta called the meeting to order.

Mayor Guinta called for the Pledge of Allegiance, this function led by Alderman Gatsas.

Mayor Guinta called for a moment of silent prayer and requested that everyone remember Paratrooper Fox who graduated from our West High School.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Roy, Gatsas, Long, Osborne, O’Neil, Lopez, Shea,  
Garrity, Smith, Thibault

Absent: Aldermen Duval, Pinard, DeVries

Mayor Guinta advised that the purpose of the special meeting is to give residents of Manchester the opportunity to address the Board on items of concern affecting the community; that each person will be given only one opportunity to speak; that comments shall be limited to three minutes to allow all participants the opportunity to speak and any comments must be directed to the Chair.

Glenn R. J Ouellette, 112 Auburn Street, stated:

I hope you don’t vote in favor of spending \$10,000 to \$30,000 to audit the amount of money that we know was spent already by taxpayers to fund the baseball field. We know it’s a fact. There is no criminal intent. So please do not waste \$10,000 or \$20,000 to even \$30,000 in taxpayers money that would not be worthwhile. Services. You know it’s funny how this city operates. If I have a smelly condition in my back yard and I call the proper departments it gets checked into. If the smelly condition is in the city’s back yard, the city owns the property, the problem doesn’t exist. That’s not government at its best. You could at least come to the neighborhood in the inner city and tell the people that you are aware that there is a severe sewage problem in the inner city of wards 3, 4, and 5. And in the past month the stink has been so horrible that no matter how hot or humid it is outside, for those who do not have air conditioners they could not open up their windows. And I don’t want to hear that it is not a health problem because it is. You could at least recognize it as a problem, work on it and keep reminding people that you are working on it, but don’t say there is no problem and

let it go by the wayside. I was also happy to hear last night on WMUR that Dover has a problem that Manchester has and I'm glad to know that the legislators, specifically those who are outside of Manchester and may not hear this but this should be a defense for those from Manchester neighborhoods that have landlords that their yards are not in compliance is not a Manchester issue by itself. It happens throughout the state. Nice to know that Dover recognized that in the City of Dover. I am very happy that we are finally taking care of some of the court orders that were ordered in the City's favor to clean up some of the messes on the West Side. But remember that they also exist on the East Side. There are some all over the city but this is a start. Let's not give it up. Taxes. Back in 2001 when I first ran for alderman in ward 3 our taxes were 52% residential and 48% commercial. Today they are 65% residential instead of 52%. That's quite a jump. And so industrial and commercial is down to 45/48%. Which means they pay less taxes than the residential; that's not fair taxation. Even in Londonderry it's 60/40, 40% residential and 60% commercial. Let's work on it.

Keith Hirschmann, 296 Dunbarton Road, stated:

Good evening Honorable Mayor and Aldermen. I am here just to voice my concerns once again about the regional facility that you are discussing contractually and otherwise to bring to Manchester. I would like to thank Mayor Guinta for coming to ward 12 and having a ward meeting. The residents met at Northwest School. Our opposition was once again stated. Our first chance to state our opposition to that project, the regional facility, was at the Zoning Board of Adjustment where approximately 250 people signed a petition and handed it in and many people spoke against the project due to the traffic study showing that 362 vehicles a day would hit the Amoskeag Rotary at Exit 6, thus clogging an already broken down intersection. But not to belabor that, there is nobody in Ward 12 that wants to see this come to fruition. I am at the point now where I really believe that it is an ill conceived plan probably to go in any ward. Whether it be the south end, the north end, the west side, wherever this regional facility is going to be located it is going to bring enough strife that it is not going to be worth whatever revenue you are trying to generate. I am calling it an ill conceived plan because ward comment was never sought and there were never public hearings; it was just an ill conceived plan from the start. At the Zoning Board, four out of five Zoning Board members agreed with the residents that spoke that night that this does not belong in Manchester, never mind Ward 12. Since May everyone in Ward 12 was finally aware of this project and realized the threat to our residential community, the threat to our home values, the threat of all these trucks going by. It's just going to ruin our life, it's come to a point now where I am asking more than Mayor Guinta to stand up and say it doesn't belong in Ward 12. I am asking the rest of you to take another look at this thing and decide for yourselves. We have aldermen at large that represent ward 12 take a stand, decide if this thing belongs in the city or not. I think you can agree with me that it really doesn't at this point. I'm not going to cast any aspersions on anybody personally but I am just going to say that I would like you all to really reconsider the plan and if it has to go outside Manchester

so be it. In the meetings that I have attended...the applicant has withdrawn his application and was really not a good corporate citizen to Manchester; he had no desire to work with the citizens of Manchester, He was adamant that this is going to happen; quite frankly everyone thought they were being steam rolled. Now what you are seeing is the people on the south end are nervous, and I am sorry for that. The only reason that the south end was looked at is because it is an industrial park, an industrial park that has an \$80,000 a year building that is paying taxes. He is now going to ask for an abatement because the building is empty, probably going to remain empty because the applicant is probably not going to go their either. It's a tough situation, like I said, an ill conceived plan on this regional facility, so let's go back to the table and figure something different out.

Leo Pepino, 73 Walnut Street, stated:

Back two or three months ago I presented you with a sex offender ordinance. So far they have had two meetings on it and are still waiting for information. What information I don't know. Percentage of feet from the house and this and that. Now in the meantime you have had your Chief of Police come out first. We have Alderman Mark Roy come out in favor of it. We have had Alderman Lopez come out in favor of it. And Your Honor has come out in favor of it in the paper. So you have had something for two months. A plain simple ordinance just like that that passed in the last two or three weeks in the towns. You thought this was crime. You are supposed to be hard on crime. We are talking about criminals here. Nothing is happening for two months. You want me to take the committee over and I'll pass it in a week. That's all I have to say, let's get going, move it.

Steve Royer, 121 Dunbarton Road, stated:

My issue is also concern about the recycling center that is proposed to go on Dunbarton Road. My point is that if you are looking at trucks between 50,000 to 100,000 pounds going up and down this road, a pretty much small road as it is and you are talking Front Street which is a pretty small road you have approximately 2,000 children that are housed in these areas, who play around on the sidewalks, lawns and stuff like that. It doesn't take much for one of those trucks to lose brakes and next thing you know you have a fatality, or worse you end up in a building with numerous fatalities. I also read they were talking about Brown Avenue, which is an industrial area. It's located approximately one mile off northbound or southbound 293. Here you are looking at Dunbarton Road is about five miles to on and off ramps either way and maybe more if you go down route 3 and get on 93. My concern is that there is not enough area there for these trucks. We already have problems now with Manchester Aggregate and Pichette driving up and down these roads at 5:00 in the morning. There are numerous signs on these roads. Also Straw Road has a sign where there is a time limit between 9:30 PM to 7:00 AM. We are still seeing these trucks. We have addressed this with the Mayor before. He had a police detail the very next day and tickets were issued, but I have not seen a police officer down there since and this was probably three weeks ago.

Now these trucks are going in between 5:30 and 6:00 in the morning and not only that, they are risking the lives of the people there because they are trying to sneak down there with a minimal amount of brakes. We have pretty steep grade for probably about half a mile, three quarters of a mile, before you come to a stop sign. One of these days those trucks are going to lose brakes and they're going to end up in Devonshire's building or they're going to end up on 293. So, my concern is not only that these trucks are there, but they pose a serious danger if they lose their brakes.

Walter Stiles, 226 Sagamore Street, stated:

Members of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, I'm here to talk about a very wonderful jewel in the property of the City of Manchester. That jewel is known as the Weston Tower. Here's what it looks like; I'm sure most of you know it. This was painted by Irene Shea, Bill Shea's wife. She's a very, very excellent artist. Here's what it looks like right here. Maybe some of you don't even know we have a tower but this is located in Derryfield Park and it was built back in 1896. The money for the tower was given to the City of Manchester by George Weston. He was a four time mayor of the City of Manchester, a two time governor of the State of New Hampshire. Let me give you a few of the words that Mr. Weston stated: Mr. Weston, as I said, left \$5,000 for the advancement of science; for educational purposes; for the use, enjoyment, benefit and mental improvement of the inhabitants of the City of Manchester. As far as I'm concerned it should be open. We must plan to have this open. When I was a boy we used to go up there all the time and it was really a wonderful place to go. Up there now there are all kinds of trails and everything else. I think the City, the parks and playgrounds department, has some ideas of how they're going to develop that. But the book that was put out by Bob Provost, and incidentally Louis Israel-Martel was the catalyst for the restoration in 1978. In the book that was put out, Bob said, '...It must never again be allowed to fall into a state of disrepair. We must make use of it wisely, enjoy its benefits, and maintain it properly, thus assuring the continued use by future generations.' Well the City of Manchester did not do that. They didn't maintain it and it fell into disrepair. The newly restored Weston Tower is beautiful right now and everybody should make a point to go up and see it. And I just hope that the City of Manchester will pay attention to the building, just as they do to other buildings, including the City Hall. It should be maintained. It should be looked after all the time, and not allowed to ever fall into disrepair again. And that was only thirty years ago, so in another thirty years I won't be here, but a lot of you will. Really, it's a great asset to the City and wonderful for children. It's the highest point in the City of Manchester and the view is fantastic, really nice. Maybe some of the trees have got to be cut down because they've grown since the tower was put. In fact when I was a boy the Nashua fire in 1927...my father took us up to the Weston Tower and you could see the smoke down in Nashua. You can see Mount Washington from the Weston Tower on a clear day. So as I say, I reiterate again that I hope that the City of Manchester will never, ever allow this tower to fall into disrepair again. Thank you.

Kevin Handschumaker, 330 Dunbarton Rd. stated:

Mayor, Alderman, thank you for the chance to speak. I'm here representing and discussing the recycling plant on Dunbarton Road. I've been a resident of Manchester my entire life, a taxpayer. I recently purchased a house on Dunbarton Road for my elderly parents. As it stands now, I know there's been a lot of meetings and we've actually discussed the plant going on that road. But as Keith Hirschmann had stated, the road is not a feasible place for this plant. There's a lot of nice houses on surrounding roads – Front Street, Dunbarton Road...you have Goffstown Back Road, Straw Road. There's a lot of neighborhoods that are going to be affected by this. I know supposedly Mr. Corkran has kind of decided he doesn't want the plant to be on this street. Mayor, I thank you for your efforts in this, and how you took notice of this. That really helped. I just don't want this to get restarted again. A lot of these people that live on these streets put in a lot of time and effort and really came forward and stuck up for their lives. Because this plant will affect our lives, our houses, our families. There's so many families that will be affected. I've spent a lot of time sitting on the corners of Front Street and Dunbarton Road, up where you go around the corner onto Front Street. I live right on Dunbarton Road. I have a lot of pictures of what happens with the trucks and the traffic. There was one day when there was some construction work on Front Street and the traffic was backed up. There must have been thirty cars backed up on Front Street, and at the same time fire trucks had to get by that one lane to get up to the condo units. I've seen tractor/trailer trucks crossing each other just as a bicyclist was going on Dunbarton Road. I have a picture of a father and his two sons walking down Dunbarton Road. At the same time there was a Pinard truck coming right next to them and an 18-wheeler going the opposite way. I have that on a picture. It's not the spot for that type of business, and I would hope that we could look at other areas instead of Dunbarton Road, and if we can't find other areas, then I would hope that we can at least set this to rest as far as on Dunbarton Road goes, because I know the City needs and could use recycling. I'm not against that at all. I myself recycle. I try the best I can. But as far as being on that road, it's a terrible idea, absolutely terrible, and we've had a lot of people come forward and get on the same page with this. And I would just hope that you all take notice of this and really make this a serious matter as far as where this is going to go, and hopefully not on Dunbarton Street. Thank you for your time.

Mayor Guinta addressed item 4 of the agenda:

4. Swearing in presentation of Mrs. Georgie Reagan as Honorary Chairman of the Arts Commission.

Mayor Guinta requested that the City Clerk, Georgie Reagan, her family, Commissioner Domaingue, Alderman Gatsas and Alderman Lopez come forward.

Leo Bernier, City Clerk, administered the oath of office to Mrs. Reagan.

Mayor Guinta stated I would like to recognize Alderman Gatsas who is going to play Senator Gatsas for the next few minutes.

Alderman Gatsas stated Georgie, being a constituent and somebody who advocates for the Arts Commission probably better than anyone in the City, and for longer than anybody in the City, the State of New Hampshire, State Senate, a resolution: Be it known that the New Hampshire Senate hereby extends its congratulations to Georgie Reagan in recognition of becoming the Honorary Chair of the Arts Commission. Now I'm not too sure...Did they have your cards printed yet? Because I know you want cards. And be it further known that the New Hampshire Senate extends its best wishes for continued success, and that this resolution be duly signed by the Senate President and duly attested to. Congratulations.

Alderman Lopez stated I just want to say, and I've been here now eight years and have known Georgie a long time. She worked on a Christmas parade. Anything she does, she does one hundred percent, and good for the City. Thank you very much.

Mayor Guinta stated and I'd like to next recognize Kelly Domaingue who is a member of the Arts Commission, for a final presentation.

Ms. Domaingue stated good evening. I'm Kelly Domaingue, Chairman of the Manchester Arts Commission. Were it not for all of Georgie's hard work, there wouldn't be an Arts Commission. It was nearly defunct after being formed in 1937, I believe. And she's put countless hours and effort into revitalizing it, finding commissioners, and promoting the arts throughout the City of Manchester. I couldn't do what I do without her. None of us would know what direction we were going in. So without further ado, I'd like to present you with an award of an appreciation and honor for everything that you've done for the Arts Commission.

Mrs. Georgie Reagan stated I'm just so thrilled with all of this. I do what I do every day because I love what I do. I love working with the artists. It must be good for the soul because they inspire me every day just working with them. It's an honor and a pleasure to work with the Mayor and his staff, and to work with the Commissioners and for the city I love. And without the support of my husband, who is headed for sainthood, I'm sure...and my family, my son George who is also involved in the arts and sort of understands all this...he's a musician. We just love what we do and I certainly love what I do and that's what brings me here every day. And to be thanked and honored for something I enjoy so much is certainly a pleasure and it's overwhelming. I thank my good friend Ted Gatsas. You just tell him you need new business cards and look what you get! I don't have the business cards but what I have is a treasure. So I thank everyone for this honor and for this

evening, and I hate to tell you this, but I'll probably be back tomorrow, if you don't mind. Thank you all very much.

Mayor Guinta stated if I could recognize the chairman again from the committee for one additional presentation to an additional person.

Ms. Domaingue stated Georgie has actually been helpful in instituting a program, along with Peter Ramsey, another one of our commissioners, whereby we recognize individual leaders within the community for their contributions to the arts. The individual that I'm going to recognize this evening has sat on more arts boards and groups and volunteered more time than I thought it was possible for any human being to do. She's worked with the Franco-American Center in the City of Manchester for a number of years. She's promoted education, cultural diversity, and continuing experiences in recognition of the arts in Manchester. She is on the board of the Manchester Community Music School and she has been an active participant and an appreciant of the New Hampshire Philharmonic, the Currier Museum of Art, and many other arts organizations in the City. When I think of what I'd like to aspire to someday, I think of Adele Boufford Baker. So if you would please come up and accept this award on behalf of the Arts Commission.

Ms. Adele Boufford Baker stated I guess we do what we do because we like what we do. And we like the organizations that we do it for. The Franco American Center is very dear to me because it's my heritage, of course. The Manchester Community Music School is a wonderful organization that has been created in order to promote music for the lower grades and for the children on this city, and adults as well. The Palace Theater, of course...Someone always said that the Palace Theater was the best little theater in the United States. Well, it's our theater and we're very proud of it. Many years ago there was some thought that perhaps the Palace Theater would no longer be. But someone said that this cannot happen. And that someone was Mayor Baines. And Mayor Baines said that the doors of the Palace Theater would never be closed. Well, the Palace Theater is alive and well, and Peter Ramsey is doing a wonderful job. I'm very pleased to have been on the board of the Palace Theater at one time. This honor tonight really makes a great deal of...It's emotional for me because it's called appreciation, right Georgie? And Georgie has been so instrumental in a lot of the Arts Commission work, and I'm very pleased to be standing next to you. Thank you all very much. You're very kind.

There being no further business, on motion of Alderman Thibault, duly seconded by Alderman Shea it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk